

Dresser Woman Murdered; Son-In-Law Held

S OCT 25 1978
A West Terre Haute man was arrested Sunday morning at the scene of a shooting in Dresser that claimed the life of his mother-in-law and critically injured his wife, according to the Vigo County Sheriff's Department.

S OCT 25 1978
Authorities reported that Charles Oricks, 27, RR 16, was arrested on a preliminary charge of assault and battery with intent to kill in connection with the shotgun slaying of Martha Jane Collins, 44, 707 S. 8th St., West Terre Haute, who was shot in the head and right arm.

Oricks' wife Linda, 21, also of the 8th St. address, was wounded in the chest and leg and was reported in critical condition late Sunday night in the intensive care unit of Terre Haute Regional Hospital following surgery.

According to reports, the shooting occurred about 9:45 a.m. Sunday at a RR 16, West Terre Haute, address in Dresser where the arrested man was living.

Reports indicated that the weapon, apparently a 12-gauge shotgun, was fired at the women from close range in front of the residence.

Vigo County detective sergeants Warren Soules and Tom Roberts investigated the slaying, along with deputies Ernie Webster, Albert McKown, Ronald Chickadaunce and John Marvel.

Arrangements for Mrs. Collins are pending at Bedino Chapel of the Valley, West Terre Haute. She is survived by the husband Clarence Paul Collins, four daughters, Mrs. Oricks, Mrs. Paula Akers, West Terre Haute, and Sandra and Lorie, both at home, three sons, Larry, West Terre Haute, David, Fort Knox, Ky., and Bruce, at home, three brothers, Thomas Bolin, West Terre Haute, Dexter Bolin, Houston, Tex., and Don Bolin, Winslow, Ind., four sisters, Mrs. Evelyn Moss and Mrs. Dorothy Moss, both of West Terre Haute, and Mrs. Catherine Priesler and Mrs. Jeanetta Ketch, both of Baltimore, Md., and seven grandchildren.



DRESSER DEATH SCENE — Vigo County deputies are pictured in front of the Dresser residence where shotgun blasts Sunday morning killed Martha Jane Collins, 44, West Terre Haute, and critically wounded her daughter Linda Oricks, 21.

Mrs. Oricks' husband Charles was arrested at the scene on a preliminary charge of assault and battery with intent to kill. The shooting reportedly occurred between the dark car and the house. (Photo by Kadel)

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Community Affairs File
Vigo County Public Library

Vigo Jury Returns Guilty Verdict In Oricks Trial

A Vigo County jury late Saturday night returned a guilty verdict in the first degree murder trial of Charles Oricks, 27, West Terre Haute.

Oricks was arrested in October for the shotgun slaying of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Martha Jane Collins, 45.

The trial was conducted in Vigo Superior Court No. 2, with Special Judge Robert Howard Brown presiding.

Oricks was arrested for first degree murder in connection with the fatal shooting of Mrs. Collins. During the shooting incident he shot and critically injured his former wife, Mrs. Linda Oricks, 22.

According to testimony, Oricks shot the two women with a shotgun as they attempted to remove Mrs. Oricks' disabled automobile from in front of the Oricks residence in Dresser.

Mrs. Collins had been shot twice with the shotgun, once in the head and once in the right arm.

Mrs. Oricks, who earlier this month obtained a dissolution of marriage from the defendant, was wounded in the chest and leg. She was listed in critical condition at Terre Haute Regional Hospital for several days.

At the time of the shooting, investigating officers said that Oricks used a 12-gauge shotgun and fired at close range.

The initial investigation into the shooting was conducted by two Vigo County Sheriff's Department detectives, Sgt. Warren Soules and Sgt. Tom Roberts, along with deputies, Ernie Webster, Albert McKown, Ronald Chickadaunce and Jon Marvel.

Jury selection began Monday morning and it took the

prosecution and defense slightly more than one and one-half days to agree on a jury of 10 women and two men to hear the case.

In his opening statement to the jury, Prosecutor Michael H. Kearns said that testimony would show that Mrs. Oricks brought the couple's two children to see Oricks the night of Oct. 23. There was an argument and Oricks pulled a shotgun on his former wife and threatened her, although the gun was not loaded at that time. Mrs. Oricks, her mother and a male companion went to the Oricks home the morning of the shooting to pick up her auto.

Defense attorneys, William Teegarden and William Smock, told the jury there was no question as to who pulled the trigger on the shotgun. The attorneys, however, maintained that Oricks acted in a heat of passion and not with premeditation.

Final arguments in the case were presented at mid-morning Saturday followed by instructions to the jury by Judge Brown.

Deliberations began at about 12:30 p.m. The jury recessed for lunch at 1:30 and returned to continue deliberating about 1 p.m.

Oricks, CHARLES

MARTHA JANE COLLINS (VICTIM)

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

Life Term

For Oricks

Crime & Criminals
Community Affairs (T.H.)
A 27-year old Dresser man, Charles Oricks, was given a life sentence for the shooting death of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Martha Collins, 44, when he appeared before Special Judge Robert Howard Brown in Division 3 of Vigo Superior Court Wednesday afternoon.

Jan 6, 1977-T
Oricks had been found guilty of first degree murder by a Vigo County jury several weeks ago. His wife, Linda, 22, was also wounded in the incident in which Mrs. Collins was killed.

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE